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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. The downed animal trade is dangerous, inhumane, and unnecessary. It needs to come to an end.

Downed animals threaten the health of humans. Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

Downed animals pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination. Also, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy ("Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

Furthermore, the downed animal trade is brutal and cruel to the animals involved. It is impossible to move downed animals humanely; they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. These inhumane processes cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered. Prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts have estimated that 90 percent of cases of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Please take a step towards human safety and animal welfare and grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Chelsea Sharon

98P-0151

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